

## Tilburg University

### Zusammenführung von Universitätsbibliothek und Rechenzentrum

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# **Zusammenführung von Universitätsbibliothek und Rechenzentrum**

Hans Geleijnse

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## General remarks

- Consensus: Users will suffer if there is no good and fruitful co-operation between library and IT Centre.
- Since the 80s: A history of a pendulum: integration, desintegration
- It depends very much of the situation in the parent institution and it depends on people
- There is not one good way to do it
- But the major trends can not be overlooked

## Trends (I)

- The move to electronic information continues.
- Policy of major libraries on digitization.
- Many university libraries are now creating learning centres.
- Libraries are looking for their added value vs. Google which creates a lot of uncertainty.
- Strong international development towards Open Access and the development of Institutional Repositories.
- Libraries are trying to identify their role in E-learning and E-science.

## Trends and challenges (II)

- Digital archiving and preservation should be done by some National Libraries
- Major challenge: How to realize a firm integration of the digital library with the digital learning environment (e-learning) and with new and collaborative research (e-science)
- This requires a fundamental change of libraries: organisation, staff skills, culture, attitude, cooperation

## Library and IT Centres

- The challenges for libraries and Computer Centres are similar
- Libraries cannot function without an optimal and ubiquitous presence of state-of-the-art Information Technology
- E-learning and E-science are not areas for competition but for collaboration
- The library needs the Computer Centre (tools), the Computer Centre needs the library (content)

# Tilburg University

- A pioneer in the development of “The Library of the Future”
- A coherent program on the development of the Digital Library
- First university in the world that could provide campus-wide access to electronic journals
- A long history of close cooperation between library and computer centre, but with no integration
- Cooperation diminished with the change of management
- Cooperation should be made independent of individuals

## Tilburg: One director for two services

- Since 2004 one director who is managing two service departments: library and computer centre (IT Services).
- We could continue this way (like many other universities).
- External developments require a closer cooperation.
- We believe there is a significant added value in integration.



## University policy

- To integrate Library, IT Services and the Media centre as from 1 january 2007
- Strong advocacy from senior managers of the three service departments
- Currently in the middle of the process of integration

## Any doubts, any opposition?

- “Any change brings about uncertainty
- “Will the library keep its identity?”
- ‘Our cultures are different”
- “Integration could be used as an argument for staff reduction”

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## **Mission and Vision of the new Service Department for Information Communication and IT Services**

- Our mission is to provide state-of-the-art information, communication and IT services in support of teaching, learning and research
- Our Vision is to be Partner in Education and Research

## Goals of the Integrated Service Department

- One integrated support unit for research
- One integrated support unit for teaching and learning
- One help desk
- Library IT staff to be integrated in IT maintenance and development teams
- One supporting staff (personnel, finance, public relations, communication, implementation, project management,

## Change is needed

- Integration will be realized in conjunction with profound changes in tasks, organisation and staffing
- Library should change anyway in the Google era
- Also IT Centres should become more user oriented and demand driven
- New challenges can be taken up jointly
- More opportunities for staff mobility in this new organisation
- Ambition is: a reduction of 15-20 % on staff in order to create space for innovation and new tasks

## Major new initiatives

- A more prominent role in the support of E-Learning
- Support in area of Research Data and E-science
- Creation of student portals: access to information anytime, anytime, anyhow
- International and subject based cooperation on institutional repositories

## Support will be essential

- Advice from faculty deans and teaching and research directors
- University advisory boards
- Student unions and committees
- Staff
- Personnel committees
- University Board

## A Tilburg model

- There is not A clear Model for integration
- Mostly integration stops at the top
- We will realize a Tilburg model for integration
- We will report on the progress and on our experiences.



# Questions?

- Questions now?
- Questions later:  
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